

2 March 1950

Mr. W. Park Armstrong, Jr.
Special Assistant, Intelligence
Department of State
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

I have read with interest Despatch No. 451 from the Embassy at Bangkok dated 30 December 1949, entitled Suggested Plan Prepared by Third Secretary Norman B. Hannah for Systematic Development of the Consular and Commercial Services as Sources of Intelligence Information (State's file 124.06/12-3049).

When your appropriate office or division is giving consideration to this matter, I should appreciate it if the various phases of this problem could be discussed with members of this agency.

In connection with the desire of the Division of Foreign Service Personnel to assign a few officers to this Agency in Washington and elsewhere in the United States, it might be possible, subsequently, to use such personnel in carrying out some of the suggestions listed in the despatch under reference.

Also, in connection with the State Department's program of exchanging personnel on foreign and domestic duty, I should think it might be worthwhile to consider the possible use abroad of a small number of CIA's Washington personnel for the purposes mentioned in the Bangkok despatch, at least in the initial organizational stages.

It is hoped that discussions among our staffs can develop workable solutions for, as you well know, improved and enlarged collection facilities are essential to the intelligence activities of our Government.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

R. H. Hillenkoetter
Rear Admiral, USN
Director of Central
Intelligence

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